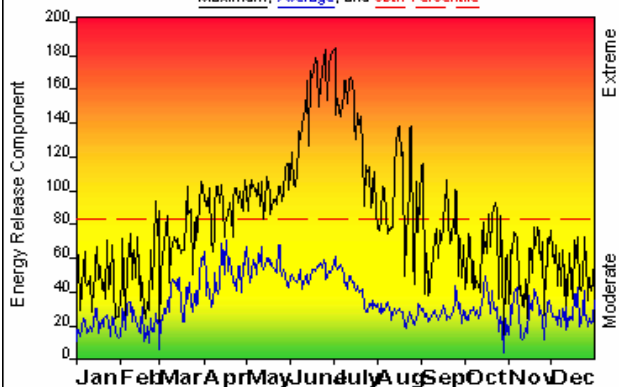




# Southwest Colorado Fire Danger Fuel Model B – Mature Brush

## FIRE DANGER -- Mature Brush

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile



## Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model B - Brush
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Morfield

## Fuel Model B Mature Brush

## Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

**Maximum** -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005

**Average** -- shows peak fire season

**90th Percentile** -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005 had an Energy Release Component above 82

**Local Thresholds - Watch out:** Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:  
20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,  
Temperature over 90, Woody fuel Moisture less than 90

**Fuel Model B MATURE BRUSH** - Mature brush in Southwest Colorado is comprised mainly of Gambel oak brush. In many areas, approximately 1/4 of the aerial fuels in the stands are dead due to extended drought and frost kill. However, live oak, with low moisture can exhibit extreme fire behavior as well. Oak is common under ponderosa pine and can act as a ladder fuel. Continuous stands of mature brush can burn extremely fast and exhibit extreme fire behavior. Be aware of extreme fire behavior with an ERC of 76 or greater. Other environmental factors that are conducive to extreme fire behavior are winds greater than 15 MPH, relative humidity under 20%, and live fuel moistures below 90%. Several fatality and entrapment fires have occurred in this fuel type. Strong winds associated with dry frontal passages are extremely dangerous. Mature brush stands can be generally found above 7,000 feet. Some pinyon and juniper stands will burn and exhibit fire behavior similar to this fuel model. Recent pinyon pine mortality has resulted in a high increase in large dead fuels and fine dead aerial fuels in these stands. Other shrubs and the increase in cheat and other grasses have resulted in fire behavior that is comparable to the mature brush fuel model.

**Dates to Remember:** Pony Fire, 8/2/00, 3,888 Acres, BI-55, ERC-65,  
Chapin 5 Fire, 8/18/96, 4,781 Acres, BI-30, ERC-37